GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3271
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2014
VISIT BY WTO TEAM
Nath Shri Chand

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any World Trade Organisation (WTO) team has visited the country recently to assess India`s trade policies;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of member countries representing the said team; and

(c) the details of conclusions and it`s likely repercussions in view of the ensuing general council meeting?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

a) Yes, a team from the WTO Secretariat has visited the country recently from 19th- 25th November 2014 to assess India's trade policies, mainly in lieu of the upcoming Sixth Trade Policy Review of India, scheduled to be held in June 2015, in Geneva.

b) The WTO Secretariat team consisted of two officials from the Secretariat's Trade Policy Review division. These officials essentially represent the WTO Secretariat, a neutral body that brings out an objective report of a country, as a part of the trade policy review process of the WTO.

c) As per the Trade Policy Review Mechanism (TPRM) of the WTO, India undergoes a trade policy review in the WTO, once in every four years. The last trade policy review of India was conducted in 2011 and the next one is scheduled in June 2015. As a part of the review process, the WTO Secretariat prepares a detailed Secretariat report on the trade related developments in the country since its last review. The WTO Secretariat team was in India for the preparation of this Secretariat report. The Secretariat report along with the Government report forms the basis for discussions when the General Council discusses India's trade policy developments. Overall, the trade policy review exercise in the WTO is aimed at improving transparency, creating a better understanding of the trade policies and practices of Member countries and enabling a multi-lateral assessment of the effects of such policies and practices on the multi-lateral trading system.